Earth Seemingly Turned Inside Out and Hills Torn to Dust Big Woods Obliterated -Terrifying Desolation Likened to Ruin of Sodom and Gomorrah

By FRANK H. SIMONDS.

Mr. Simonds's article on the French Views will be printed to-morrow.

woodlands, there is the

above Pompeii or Messina, down

Where a Hill Stood

Before I visited the battlefield of | falls, so the people of the region be

of ruined entity. Walk out from the Only Skeleton Left

German Dugouts Intact In Champagne Waste

can walk a hundred feet and you

the Somme is indescribable. Over an area ten miles by twenty, per- Frontier of Desolation haps, the whole face of the earth has Is Outlined Sharply

Death's Road Leads To Modern Pompeii

tower of its church, with a statue of old fields. position across the tower, has be- olation of the battlefield of the ways, the white, even and splendid Wood, lashed about itself and overhave read of the battle. When it



side the little brooks.

Swept Off the Earth

Our own "vers libre" The shepherd's in the dell-

Picardy hillsides.

Everything they wear for Spring now ready.

Head first if you like! The "Rogers Peet" Der-

Broadway at 13th St. Four Broadway Corners" at Warren

map you will see marked many little centre of desolation. bits of woodland, the usual com- Scene of Destruction of trees surrounding the frequent chateaus. But the woods are gone.

In Region of Verdun I went to the Somme. There half a dozen of the woods that have filled worked into a mass of holes, huge cavities in which men and ani- about Verdun. mals have disappeared and been

face and the subsurface; it raises an organization, a development of new hills and it destroys old eleva-

the fields that they cultivated and through what was once the main that their fathers cultivated will street of Montauban and is now a have disappeared; the subsurface white road in the midst of powdered will still be honeycombed by the cor- ashes ridors of mines or the molelike bur-

a hillside. Along this hillside ran Malignant War Spirit the first line of German trenches, but Blights Land Forever

seems a mad and frantic outburst of ing so much as the deserted nest of industry, and you will have some hornets, along whose slopes there faint suggestion of what the battle- may still be traced in places the cut-

Industry Amid Ruin

westward beyond the battlefield. Wrought by Destroyer For in spite of the desolation there As a Symbol of Fury I do not know any way that one military argot.

Somme. There it lies, ten miles highways of France. They alone turned trees and rooted them up. deep, one shore touching the furnace have survived the ruin, as the stones One more detail. All this field of which is still burning up and de- of the Appian Way have outlived the contrasting waste and reconstruction stroying the surface of the earth centuries and the onrush of other is well within reach of German shell and all animate and inanimate harbarians. And along these high- fire. Now and again the storm be things thereon. At the other shore ways flow the most amazing streams gins and the caravans of men and there begins sharply the countryside of mankind that are conceivable, and animals slowly extend, draw out into of France, and between the two not alone men but motors and thin groups—and go on. It never shores is an infernal region in which horses; the voice of the Missouri mule stops by day or by night, this steady. at least a million and a half of men, challenges the passage of the "Tank" even flow of human life toward the British, German and French, have and the donkey of the pack train extreme front at which annihilation keen killed or wounded. Perhaps alike.

half a million men lie buried in the Flower of Britain shattered folds and turns of the scarred hillsides or in the flats be-

Up these roads, following their ar- Resembles Earthquake tillery, surrounding their rolling. The centre of the storm has passed, kitchens, the men of Australia and but the storm area includes all of of Canada move between those of the torn and wrecked country, and Sometimes in the Sunday supple- Scotland and of England. And the always there is to be heard, not disments scientists or alleged scientists roads are crowded day and night, like tant, the steady drumming of heavy used to write articles describing the the roads that lead to the Polo artillery; the hills are shaken almost time when the earth would begin to Grounds when a ball game is sched- every moment by the tremendous ex dry up, when flames from inside the uled. And on the shell-swept hill- plosions, and the intermittent cannarrow crust would burst forth. sides every sort of shanty and bar- nonade rises to the magnitude of All wool and fast color What they sought to describe the rack affords temporary resting place an earthquake again and again. suits and overcoats for men artillery of the last great war has for the mender of highways or police A year ago I visited the field of

Mametz hill, on the slopes toward place in the desert.

gone, and sometimes the hills upon get forward swiftly and turn still which they stood are gone. On the more miles of France into the same

To Live for Centuries

quite describe this battlefield of the when I visited Fort de Vaux before thing of the supreme insanity and they are gone, and there are left the surviving evidences of the storm Colonel Quotes Scripture as never seen anything that approached

transformation of valleys to human obliteration; it alters the very sur. these fields to-day and see an order, paredness. which would take him completely and command his admiration. The

Destruction Advances Like a Forest Fire

And like the forest fires of the

tings of the trenches and tangles of

surface of hill and valley has been of the surface of the earth, a labor chanical, like a prehistoric animal swept away; it is as if the outer and like that of Panama. For gridironed and it was not difficult to imagine the inner strata of the earth had in amidst all the waste are railroad that all the scene of desolation that Coming out of Albert along the some fashion changed place. It is a tracks, the bottom of every valley is extended on every side was the work read so many thousands of men have destruction suggesting that of Sodom carpeted with rails and the noise of of this animal, of many animals such followed to death one approaches the and Gomorrah—a destruction delib- the distant artillery is deadened by as this; that there was still going field of actual fighting with little erately designed to make impossible the shrill whistles of engines as they forward the war of some prehistoric real warning. Albert itself is a forever the return of men to their drag cars up toward the front-tow- age between man and this scaled ard the railhead-the "dump" of the creature, and that in its fury, its dying fury-for this "Tank" was the Virgin suspended in a prostrate can give any slight hint of the des- And beside the railroads are high- dead-it had torn up the Trones

> becomes absolute, at an arbitrary frontier of sandbags.

Steady Bombardment

illustrated on the slopes of the of the rear. It is as if the flower the Marne. Here there was nothing and pick of British imperial man- of destruction visible that might not Standing still on the slopes of the hood had suddenly sought a dwelling have been the work of the men and standing still on the slopes of the hood had suddenly sought a dwelling have been the work of the men and the machines that fought Napoleon sat the north and east, one looks out And the impression is bewildering on the same ground a century before. upon the sites of many villages. At beyond all else I have ever seen. On the battlefield of Champagne, of your feet was Mametz, but of Here are some square miles of the 1915, as I have said, the effect of Mametz there is not a stone, not a earth's surface which have been shell fire was patent but temporary; bies were never more be
Mametz there is not a stone, not a earth's surface which have been shell it was patched on the plant of the walls of houses stood and the physical plant of the weapons invented fields can be ploughed and planted.

The bear literally blown from the by the fury of the weapons invented fields can be ploughed and planted. it has been literally blown from the by the fury of the weapons invented fields can be ploughed and planted face of the earth; it has dissolved in by man, and the men who have done when the trenches are filled and ROGERS PEET COMPANY dust, and the dust has been swept these things with the maddest of all the barbed wire removed. But at away. Here was a well built little energy, with the most terrible of all the Somme there is nothing more Broadway French town, with its solid houses machines, have now come forward to terrifying in all the terrible things at 34th St. of plaster and stone, old houses en- restore to human use what they have that one sees than the mutilation of during from other centuries. It had just destroyed. First they have cre- the surface of the earth itself, the Fifth Ave. the usual church, the familiar place, ated a wilderness and worse than a permanent destruction of the hills at 41st St. the fountain, all the slight but per- wilderness and then they have fared and the lasting scarring of the hillmanent details of a French village, forward into the wilderness bring- sides, sown as they are with the ing with them all the machinery they shattered fragments of half a mill-And what is true of Mametz is could devise, not to repair all the ion of human beings and condemned And what is true of mametiz is could devise, not by repair all the lon or numan beings and condemned true of Montauban; it is true of injuries they have wrought, but such to eternal sterility. Surely the Fricourt; it is true of I do not know of these injuries as are hampering Somme must be the last word in war.

T. R. Declines Bryan Debate on Preparedness

Like Discussing Propriety of Benedict Arnold's Acts, He Says

Calls It Undebatable

Warning to the

in the moving of mountains or the letter to the Congress of Forums yes-

and that the debate be given in all the Protect Citizens on Sea and arge cities of the country.

In his reply, dated at Sagamore Hill,

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MICHIO ITOW EMMA DUNN "Old Lady 31

or the right of judges to accept bribes from suitors or the duty of submission to the divine right of kings or the propriety of action such as that of

"To debate the duty of preparedness, as the foundation for the performance of all other patriotic duty, is useless unless as a preliminary we undo this work of all our greatest men of the past, dissolve this nation into dust, and start at the beginning by deciding whether it was worth while for Washington to have founded the nation and ington to have sounced the haton air for Lincoln to have saved it. If we decide these questions in the affirma-tive, it then becomes mere sillness to debate either whether it is worth while to be patriotic or whether it is a patriotic duty to prepare to defend the country which was thus founded and thus saved.

"The unpreparedness upheld by the advocates of professional pacifism does not, as is sometimes said, represent a high, although impractical, ideal. It is profoundly immoral, and in actual practice has been conclusively shown by the events of the last few years to in-spire and abet the commission of the meanest sins, not only against our own meanest sins, not only against our own country, but against the cause of international duty. American pacifism throughout these years has been the timid apologist and potent ally of the ruthless brutality of German milibrutality of German mili-both when that militarism has

Bishop Lawrence Urges President To Prepare Nation

Land at All Costs, He Says

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March 22; Atlanta, March 23; Bir Tex., March 27: Oklahoma City, March 28 and 29. Leaving Oklahoma City of the evening of March 29, Mr. Taft will arrive in Chicago on March 30 and will reach his home in New Ha-

auspices of the League to Enforce Peace, of which Mr. Taft is president, the arrangements at each stop being made by the local branch of the or-ganization, cooperating with leading citizens and organizations. At Atcitizens and organizations. At At-lanta, for instance, Governor Harris of Georgia, Mayor Candler, Clark Howell, editor of "The Constitution"; the Chamber of Commerce and, in-deed, all the leading citizens are working with energy and authorized Birmingham the Chambe

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branch of the league, with the aid of a committee of fifteen, is planning a state convention of the League to Enforce Peace, to be addressed by Mr.

Oklahoma City, to which Governor Williams and the mayors of cities will

appoint delegates.

As the South and Southwest have been clamoring for months for a visit from Mr. Taft, the tour is expected to be a great popular success Mr Taft, after speaking of the aims

Mr Tnft, after speaking of the aims of the league, said:

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